

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 6 to 8, 13 and 15 to 22 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 1 to 3, 5, 9 to 12 and 14, and add Claims 23 to 25, to read as follows. Note that all claims currently pending in this application, including those presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

5.6 C17
1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to an information processing device, a server connected to the plurality of information processing devices executes the steps of a set top box, in which the set top box is connected to a cable head end via a digital cable network, comprising:

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receiving from an internet-based source a print job including data to be printed at a printer connected to an information processing device via a network at the cable head end, the print job being received in a printer-independent format, and including address information designating at least one home printer connected to a respective set top box;

obtaining a print driver for the printer connected to the information processing device;

rendering the print job using the print driver; and

based on the address information, accessing a user directory so as to determine information identifying type and configuration of the printer;

creating a logical software printer at the cable head end, and executing a print driver corresponding to the printer identifying information in the logical printer, so as

to render the printer-independent print job into a rasterized bit map image that is specific for the ultimate destination printer; and

transferring the rendered print job over the network to the information processing device, rasterized bit map image over the digital cable network to the set top box to which the destination printer is connected.

31 2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of instructing the information processing device to create another logical printer with a simplified print driver that accepts rendered print jobs, and of accepting the rendered creating, at the set top box, another logical printer with a simplified print driver that accepts rasterized bit map print jobs, and of accepting the rasterized bit map print job by the logical printer for visual printout.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendered print job rasterized bit map image created at the cable head end includes all needed printer commands for the target printer.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the rasterized bit map print data is formatted to a format needed by the target printer.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps step, at cable head end, of automatically detecting the identification information for the type and configuration of the printer connected to the information

processing device, attached to the set top box, by requesting such information from the set top box information processing device, and thereafter automatically obtaining a suitable print driver.

6 to 8. (Cancelled)

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9. (Currently Amended) A server device ~~An apparatus~~ for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to an information processing device, a set top box, in which the set top box information processing device is connected to the server device ~~a cable head end~~ via a ~~digital cable~~ network, comprising:

a program memory for storing process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, 12, 14 and 23 to 25; ~~8 and 12 to 13~~; and

a processor for executing the process steps stored in said program memory.

10. (Currently Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable process steps for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to an information processing device, a set top box, in which a server device ~~the set top box~~ is connected to the information processing device ~~a cable head end~~ via a ~~digital cable~~ network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, 12, 14 and 23 to 25. ~~8 and 12 to 13~~.

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11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps, the computer-executable process steps for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to ~~a set top box~~ an information processing device, in which a server device ~~the set top box~~ is connected to the information processing device ~~a cable head end~~ via a ~~digital cable~~ network, said computer-executable process steps comprising process steps executable to perform a method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, 12, 14 and 23 to 25. ~~8 and 12 to 13.~~

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the internet-based print job is a push-print print job originating from the ~~an~~ internet-based source.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the internet-based source is a ~~for providing for printout of an internet-based print job at a printer connected to a set top box, in which the set top box can communicate with a broadcasting station, the information processing device is a set top box and the network is~~ via a broadband network, comprising:

receiving a print job from an internet-based source at the broadcasting station, the print job being received in a printer-independent format and including address information designating at least one home printer connected to a respective set top box;

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based on the address information, accessing a user directory so as to
determine a printer driver corresponding to the printer;
obtaining identification information of the printer connected to the set top
box by communicating with the set top box;
loading the print driver specified by the accessing step or the obtaining step
at the broadcasting station and executing the print driver corresponding to the printer, so as
to render the printer-independent print job into a rasterized bit map image that is specific
for the ultimate destination printer; and
transferring the rasterized bit map image over the broadband network to the
set top box to which the destination printer is connected.

15 to 22. (Cancelled)

5.5 c.1 >
23. (New) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps
of establishing a secure connection to the internet-based source.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps
of establishing a secure connection to the information processing device.

25. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of rendering
the print job generates rasterized data using the print driver.